



Builth Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1952.



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....Mr.G.Llewellyn, M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.

1/.
Builth Rural District Council
Report of the Medical Officer of Health
1952.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District for the year 1952.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 2/53 (Wales).

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.
Statistical Summary for the year 1952.

Area.....125,944 acres.
Population (Census 1951).....3,503.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1952).....3,439.
Number of inhabited houses.....1,037.

Live Births.

	<u>Malos.</u>	<u>Femalos.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	38	22	60	
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	
	39	22	61	17.7
Still Births	2	2	4	1.1
Deaths from all causes.	16	24	40	11.6

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under one year.....1. Rate per 1000 live births.....16.4

Deaths from special causes;
Infectious disease.....One.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....One.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Threo.

Area. The Builth Rural District is a large area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire and consists of almost one fifth of the whole county.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents.

There are no large towns in the district.

Population.

Census 1931.....	4426.
Census 1951.....	3503.

1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
4103.	3901.	3869.	3753.	3661.	3576.	3467.	3412.	3391.	3395.	3439.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 1037 giving an average number of 3.3 persons per house.

<u>Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1939.....			54.....	14.4
1940.....	24.....	28.....	52.....	13.3
1941.....	35.....	25.....	60.....	13.8
1942.....	42.....	24.....	66.....	16.0
1943.....	38.....	38.....	76.....	19.5
1944.....	40.....	27.....	67.....	17.6
1945.....	29.....	25.....	54.....	14.3
1946.....	28.....	25.....	53.....	14.5
1947.....	23.....	30.....	53.....	14.8
1948.....	39.....	22.....	61.....	17.6
1949.....	40.....	21.....	61.....	17.8
1950.....	31.....	36.....	67.....	19.7
1951.....	28.....	28.....	56.....	16.5
1952.....	39.....	22.....	61.....	17.7
England and Wales, 1952.....				15.3

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1939.....			48.....	12.7
1940.....	29.....	19.....	48.....	12.5
1941.....	34.....	25.....	59.....	13.7
1942.....	22.....	28.....	50.....	12.2
1943.....	27.....	17.....	44.....	11.2
1944.....	19.....	14.....	33.....	8.6
1945.....	27.....	13.....	40.....	10.6
1946.....	19.....	21.....	40.....	10.8
1947.....	18.....	26.....	44.....	12.3
1948.....	22.....	23.....	45.....	12.9
1949.....	22.....	15.....	37.....	10.8
1950.....	25.....	21.....	46.....	13.5
1951.....	33.....	17.....	50.....	14.7
1952.....	16.....	24.....	40.....	11.6
England and Wales, 1952.....				11.3

The deathrate for 1952 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales but much lower than the birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1939.....			7.....	1.8
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.3
1941.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	1.1
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.4
1943.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.7
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1945.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.5
1946.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.81
1947.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1948.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.6
1949.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1950.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1951.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.58
1952.....	2.....	2.....	4.....	1.1
England and Wales, 1952.....				0.35

The still birthrate was therefore higher than the average of England and Wales.

Builth Rural District.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			2.....	.28
1939.....			4.....	.74
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	.52
1941.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	.18
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	.30
1943.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	.69
1944.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	.15
1945.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	.15
1946.....	3.....	2.....	5.....	.94
1947.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	.37
1948.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	.0
1949.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	.16
1950.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	.44.7
1951.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	.35
1952.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	.16.4
England and Wales, 1952.....				.27.6

The infantile mortality rate for 1952 was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

These infantile deaths all occurred in children of under 4 weeks old.

Analysis of causes of Deaths. Males.....16. Females.....,24.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis respiratory.....	1.....	0.....
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.....	1.....
Other malignant neoplasms.....	0.....	2.....
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	3.....	3.....
Coronary disease.....	2.....	1.....
Other heart disease.....	6.....	11.....
Other circulatory disease.....	0.....	1.....
Pneumonia.....	0.....	1.....
Other diseases respiratory system.....	0.....	1.....
Ulcer stomach.....	1.....	0.....
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1.....	0.....
Other defined causes.....	0.....	2.....
Motor vehicle accidents.....	1.....	1.....
All other accidents.....	1.....	0.....

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the now Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to Builth Rural residents during 1952 amounted to one.

Maternal Mortality. There was no death in the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your officers during the year, Mr.G.Llewelyn remaining as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Hereford and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Shrewsbury whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Builth.

Builth Rural District.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's Ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at Park House, Park Road, Builth and the War Memorial Institute, Llanwrttyd. Ante natal clinics are also held in Builth and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects are also available.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, treatment for dental, eye and orthopaedic defects and also expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is the responsibility of the County Council.

Section 4. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the various parts of the district are derived mainly from springs. In one case the source is a shallow well. Owing to the prolonged wet weather the supply of water has been satisfactory at the source but there were occasional shortages due to mechanical failure.

The Council supplies were cleaned out and other steps taken to prevent contamination. The private supplies were subjected either to similar treatment or alternative supplies found.

Number of visits to water supplies.....23.
There are no filtration or chlorination works in the district.

Gwenddwr.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....4.
Population thus supplied.....12.
There is one school and one school house supplied direct the the premises.
Number of houses supplied by standpipe.....6.
Population thus supplied.....19.
Number of samples taken.....3.

Builth Rural District.Erwood Supply.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house	14
Population thus supplied	39
No. of houses supplied by standpipes	7
Population thus supplied	20
Number of samples taken	3

Nantyrarian.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house	0
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	10
Population thus supplied	20
Number of samples taken	1

Llangammarch Wells.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house	27
Population thus supplied	78
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	32
Population thus supplied	90
Number of samples taken	2

Garth.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house	15
Population thus supplied	48
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	9
Population thus supplied	26
Number of samples taken	4

Cefnigorwydd.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house	5
Population thus supplied	14
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	10
Population thus supplied	26
Number of samples taken	2

Cilmery.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house	22
Population thus supplied	63
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	5
Population thus supplied	13
In addition one school and one school-house are supplied direct	
Number of samples taken	3

Llanwrthwl.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house	13
Population thus supplied	40
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	0
Number of samples taken	1

Work on water supplies during the year.

1. Gwenddwr. As a result of bad samples and diminution of available water, the drive -water dam was improved, collecting channels in the spring area were cleaned out and new porous pipes were laid and surrounded with broken stone. The Council also decided to enclose more land around the springs.
2. Cilmery. Arrangements were made for taking over the Cilmery Park supply for the village.
3. Llangammarch Wells. Consideration was given to an extension of the scheme to some properties along the Cefnigorwydd road but no decision was taken up to the end of the year.

Regional Scheme. Further consideration was given to the regional scheme and in April the Council were informed that their scheme had been approved in principle. A Water Advisory Committee was appointed for the purpose of formally submitting

the scheme for grant purposes. This Committee would eventually form the nucleus of a Joint Board, and was comprised of representatives of the Rural District Councils of Builth and Colwyn, and the Urban District Council of Llanwrtyd Wells.

The above are all Council's supplies. The remainder of the population have private supplies.

The Oaklands part of the parish of Llandewicwm is supplied from the Builth Urban Supply.

During the year a total of 47 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination, of these, 33 were reported as satisfactory and 14 unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no sewerage scheme to any part of the district except for the Oaklands area of the parish of Llandewicwm, which is connected to the Builth Urban sewer. Schemes for the disposal of sewage in the village of Llanwrthwl was in course of preparation and 11 houses were connected to the sewer. No other village has a sewage disposal scheme but a sewerage scheme for Llangammarch was submitted to the Ministry, an engineer instructed in regard to Cilmerly and the Surveyor was instructed to prepare a scheme for Erwood.

Number of drainage inspections by sanitary inspector 39

Adequate methods of sewage disposal are connected very closely with an increased supply of water and it is to be hoped that both these matters will receive attention in the near future.

Public Cleansing. On the 8th July, a scheme of refuse collection was inaugurated. The scheme provides for the collection of refuse at fortnightly intervals, from properties along the roads throughout the greater part of the district. The scheme is carried out by a contractor and tips are provided at Hay Road, (Builth Wells), and at Beulah. There was a very satisfactory response to the scheme and very great quantities of accumulated refuse have been disposed of. Consideration was given to the extension of the scheme to take in the remaining parts of the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. Llewellyn. The following details give information relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received	15
Number of complaints investigated	15
Number of premises revisited	2
Number of notices served	0

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature that they require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses. There is no common lodging house in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector	6
Number of notices served	0

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections made	0
Number of notices served	0

Factories.

Number of factories in the district	7
Number of visits made	4
Number of notices served	0
Number of defects found	0

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Rodent Control. Work of Rodent Control was continued wherever found necessary and many routine inspections made. As in the previous year, it was found that the troublesome colonies of rats were centred on such places as the banks of rivers and streams, and intensive control of these showed a very satisfactory lessening of the trouble experienced through the visits of rats to adjoining premises.
During the latter half of the year, use was made of the new poison "Warfarin", and this was found to be extremely satisfactory.

Number of premises inspected.....	463.
Number found infested.....	99.
Number of premises treated.....	76.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 5. Housing.

During the year no further houses were built by the Council. Consideration was given to the erection of houses in the parishes of Llanganton, Penbualt, Crickadern, Rhosferig, Treflis, Llanynis, Maesmynis, Gwenddwr and Abergwessin.

Number of houses built by private enterprise.....	2.
Number of houses built by Council since war.....	34.
Number of houses built by private enterprise since war.....	5.
Number of applications for improvement grant received.....	6.
Number of applications for improvement grant approved.....	1.
Number of house to house inspections made.....	20.
Number of notices served.....	0.

There was difficulty experienced in getting necessary repairs done to houses owing to the discrepancy between cost of repairs and value of house. It appears that the Rent Restriction Acts need revision.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.
Record of Inspections and Milk Testing.

Number of inspections of cowsheds and dairies.....	4.
Delivery vehicles inspected.....	9.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act,1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors. During the year milk testing was undertaken by Hereford Laboratory. The following show the results of samples taken:-

Under methylene blue test, satisfactory samples.....	7.
Under methylene blue test, unsatisfactory samples.....	0.

The results of these samples were notified to the County Milk Executive Sub Committee.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in your area and all meat is supplied to the district from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point in the Colwyn Rural District.

Ice Cream Premises. There are no retailers of ice cream in the district.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Acute Primary Pneumonia.....	1 case.
Measles.....	5 cases.
Diphtheria.....	3 cases.
Whooping Cough.....	5 cases.
Scarlet Fever.....	7 cases.

The cases of diphtheria were removed to hospital, the remaining cases being isolated at home. None of the cases proved fatal. One of the cases of diphtheria was not confirmed.

Under the Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of notifications are received by the County Council.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years:-

Number of cases on register at commencement of year	14
Number of fresh cases added during the year	1
Number of deaths during the year	1
Number of cases removed as disease arrested	0
Number of cases removed as left district	2
Number of cases left on register at the end of the year	12

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below :-

1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
2	0	2	3	4	1	8	1	1	9	1

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. During the first half of 1952, however, it is disturbing to note that only 31% of the estimated number of children reaching the age of one year during this period received this protection.

It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

Two cases of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George.

Medical Officer of Health.

